COLORADO

Photos by **Tom Kimmell**/Gazette Telegraph

An elite equality

Big bucks is Aspen's most popular lingo

By **Warren Epstein**/Gazette Telegraph

ASPEN — Terry White assured the more than 2,000 gays gathered here for Gay Ski Week that they were politically correct.

Never mind that they were in Colorado despite a boycott against the state over passage of Amendment 2.

"We need to support a community that has supported us," the Aspen Gay and Lesbian Community spokesman said at last Sunday's opening reception.

White pointed out that Aspenites opposed the amendment 2 to 1. He praised the Aspen City Council for vowing to enforce the city's anti-discrimination ordinance even if Amendment 2 — which bans laws that protect gays from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation — survives a suit challenging its constitutionality.

White's sentiments are echoed by various signs and T-shirt slogans in Aspen that declare the city "a hate-free zone" where people of every race, creed and sexual orientation are welcome.

But behind this image of tolerance and inclusiveness is one of the most exclusive cities in the world.

The average Aspen home costs more than $1 million. Hollywood celebrities and Arab royalty frolic in the city's private clubs and specialty shops. Robin Leech could shoot an entire season of "Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous" without going outside the city limits.

Meanwhile, making beds in hotel suites, grooming snow on ski slopes, waiting tables, scrubbing toilets and picking up garbage

See **ASPEN**/A12

▲About 500 people marched last Sunday against Amendment 2, at the start of the 16th annual Gay Ski Week in Aspen. More than 2,000 gays and lesbians attended Gay Ski Week this year despite a boycott against the state of Colorado.

▶Pete Mattarano, a sanitation worker for BFI, says he finds people in Aspen are like anywhere else. But he says he cannot afford to live in a place where the average home costs more than $1 million.

heir lives have been changed by
mony from the children./**B5**

ALL OF FAMERS: Walter Payton, the
her, and Chuck Noll and Bill Walsh,
nes in Super Bowl history, are the
bers of pro football's Hall of

ETIC OVERKILL: With an almost pa-
ation, we overestimate the signifi-
ything "artistic," including Andy War-
ars, writes author Arianna Stassino-
gton./**D3**

NORS: Cynthia Ryland and Emily Ar-
have won the 1993 John Newbery
n Caldecott medals, the two presti-
of children's literature./**D4**

S

UPULOUS LENDERS: Complaints about
finance companies taking advantage
nd the elderly have resulted in large
d government scrutiny./**E1**

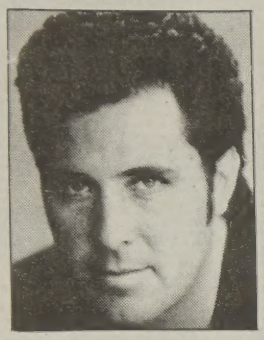
Y LASTING ISSUE: Capitol switch-
hmed with calls about President Clin-
allow gays to serve in the military,
dministration's economic stimulous
uction packages are likely to have a
ffect, writes Business Editor Jerry

E

S AGO: Most people who lived
can remember it all too vividly, can
ages of shock and mayhem and still
tragedy. Increasingly, historians see
ed, a year that ended one era and
./**F1**

Caroline Kennedy Schlossberg

The daughter of John F. Kennedy has given birth to a son and named him John Bouvier Kennedy Schlossberg, after her maternal grandfather. The baby, born Jan. 19, and Schlossberg, 35, were doing well.



Vince Gill

The country music star, an avid golfer, has made his first-ever hole-in-one. Gill scored the ace Wednesday in a pro-am at the Phoenix Open. He used a sand wedge on the 113-yard 16th hole. Gill, current Country Music Association male vocalist of the year, briefly considered a pro golf career as a young man.

The Cuban defector who borrowed a plane to return to his homeland and rescue his family has sold the rights to his story. "It will be a love story," **Orestes Lorenzo**, 36, said Friday. "Politics will be implicit." Hearst Entertainment paid a "substantial amount of money" to Orestes, said producer Bruce Savin. A TV movie could be released within a year, Savin said. **Andy Garcia** has expressed interest in playing Lorenzo, Savin said. Lorenzo, a former Cuban Air Force pilot, took a MiG from **Fidel Castro**'s stockpile two years ago and flew undetected into Key West, Fla. On Dec. 19, he flew back to Cuba to rescue his wife and sons.

London critics name their picks

Robert Downey Jr. ("Chaplin") and **Judy Davis** ("Husband and Wives") have been named 1992's best actors by the London Film Critics Circle. **Neil Jordan** ("The Crying Game") was named best British director and **Robert Altman** ("The Player") best foreign director. **Clint Eastwood**'s "Unforgiven" was named best movie.

Roseanne foments rumors

Roseanne Arnold pregnant? Could be. The comedian seemed annoyed Thursday as a TV crew congratulated her, after **Tom Arnold** complained that "she's been sick every morning recently" in explaining her absence from last weekend's Golden Globe awards. Asked about it, Roseanne said: "If my husband says I'm pregnant then, by God, I'm pregnant. I do whatever my husband says." But he didn't say.

ON THE AIR

On today's TV news shows:

ABC's "This Week With David Brinkley" — Topic: President Clinton, the Congress and the Governors. Guests: Govs. **Roy Romer** of Colorado and **Carroll Campbell** of South Carolina; Sens. **Daniel Patrick Moynihan**, D-N.Y., and **Trent Lott**, R-Miss. (10 a.m., Channel 13).

NBC's "Meet the Press" — Topic 1: Congress and Clinton. Guest: **Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole** of Kansas. Topic 2: The Super Bowl. Guests: **National Football League Commissioner Paul Tagliabue**; former Housing and Urban Development Secretary **Jack Kemp**, a former Buffalo Bills quarterback; and former Dallas Cowboys quarterback **Roger Staubach**. (9 a.m., Channels 5/30).

Gazette Telegraph news services

(Monday)
Groundhog Day
(Tuesday)
Weatherman's Day
(Friday)
Aaron Burr Day
(Saturday)

FEBRUARY IS ...

- African-American History Month
- Canned Food Month
- Creative Romance Month
- National Blah Buster Month
- National Cherry Month
- National Embroidery Month
- National Grapefruit Month
- National Snack Food Month
- Responsible Pet Owner Month
- Return Shopping Carts to the Supermarket Month

DIDYA KNOW?

"Fitness" magazine reports that billiards has become the top-ranked recreational activity. According to the Billiard & Bowling Institute of America, billiards surpassed bowling.

Lotto

SATURDAY NIGHT'S DRAWING:

4	10	16
27	36	40

WEATHER

TICS

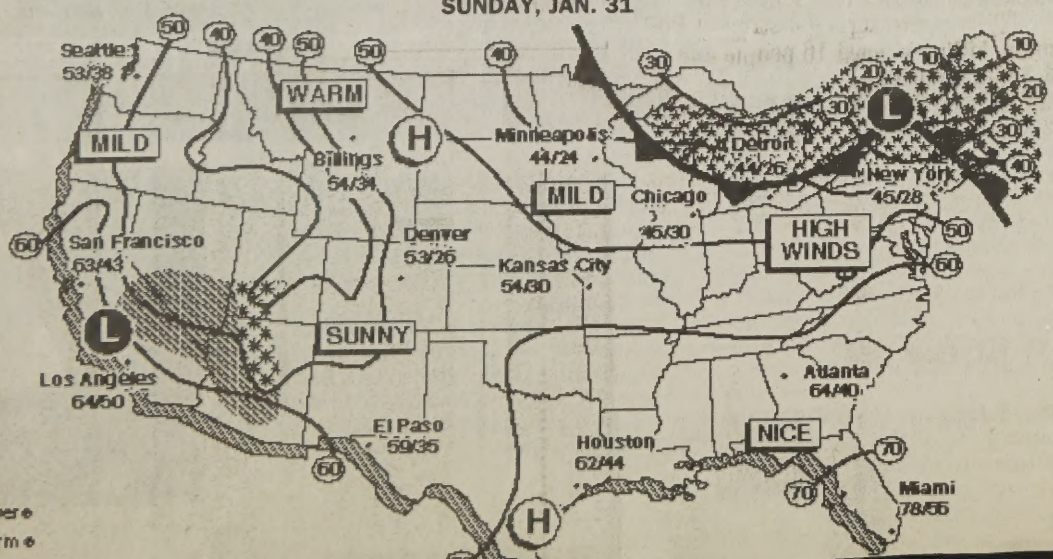
QUALITY
SAT. JAN. 30)

CCEPTABLE	POOR
75 100	150 200

ZONE - 12
MONOXIDE - 13

p.	Wind	Humid.
	0	95
	0	95
	0	95
	0	95
	0	92
	WNW 3	92
	0	95
	WNW 3	95
	0	95
	0	95
	NE 3	95

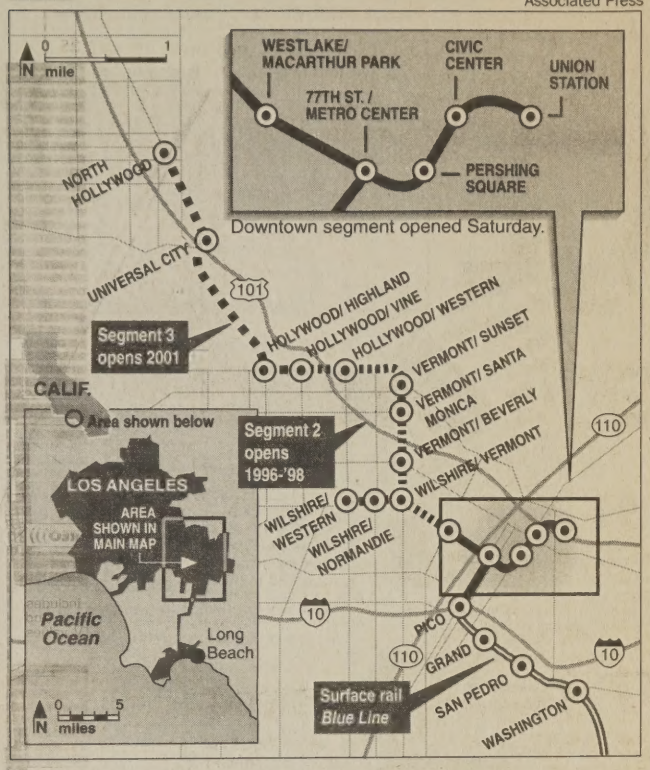
TODAY'S ACCU-WEATHER® FORECAST
SUNDAY, JAN. 31



TRANSPORTATION

The Los Angeles
METRO RED LINE

Associated Press



L.A. glides into future with subway system

Bradley welcomes 'all aboard'

News services

LOS ANGELES — Mayor Tom Bradley blew a whistle and said "All aboard" on Saturday at a ceremony inaugurating the Metro Red Line, the first modern subway to open in the nation's second largest city.

"This day is here," Bradley told about 300 people gathered in a downtown station beneath Pershing Square. "We have our first Metro Line system that will take us into the 21st Century."

It is a modest start, just 4.4 miles of tunnels linking five stations across downtown. Two sleek Italian-made trains running in opposite directions will carry riders on the seven-minute trip between Union Station and MacArthur Park just west of downtown every 10 minutes.

The Metro Red Line, as it is called, would hardly make New Yorkers feel at home. The stations are bright, airy, colorful and filled with dramatic art; the automated trains glide by almost silently. Without turnstiles, New York City's problem of turnstile jumping has been solved, though police will spot-check for tickets.

Transit officials said they concluded that the cost of building a fare collection system would be higher than the amount likely to be lost to cheaters. They said comparisons with New York, where fare-evasion is rampant on the 469-station system, are inappropriate because this is such a small and closely monitored system.

Moreover, many of the subway passengers are expected to be transferees from commuter rail lines, which entitles them to ride the Red Line without an additional fare.

There will be no barriers to the train platforms, a concept borrowed from European and Canadian systems. Sharon Papa, chief of police for the transit district, said officers planned to check about one of every four riders for valid tickets. Such a system has been in use on a small above-ground section of the overall rail system for two years, and the rate of noncompliance has been less than one-half of 1 percent.

On a first offense, violators will be removed from the train and given a lesson in how to purchase a ticket from a machine in the station. Repeat violators face a fine of up to $250.

The opening is considered a historic turning point for a dispersed region, where it is difficult to find an urban core and where the automobile serves as the chaotic instrument of personal independence.

"We have made public policy that for the next 30 years we are not going to add any more freeways," said Neil Peterson, executive director of the Los Angeles County Transportation Commission, which oversees the project.

Transit officials have plans for a 22.7-mile subway system that will be the backbone of a 400-mile commuter rail system and expanded bus service. Such a system would give this area the second-largest transit system in the country, after New York City's.

"BELIEVE ME. LESS IS DEFINITELY MORE!"
— Francine Spinosi

Francine Spinosi after Medifast: 140 lbs., size 12.

"I've always had a weight problem. I remember that horrible day I bought these pants (a size 54) - it was the same day I admitted to myself that I had a serious weight problem and that I needed help. A friend told me about the New Medifast Program, so I called for a free orientation."

Francine Spinosi before Medifast: 367 lbs., size 54

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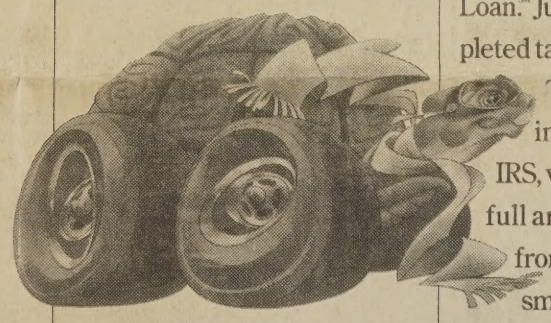

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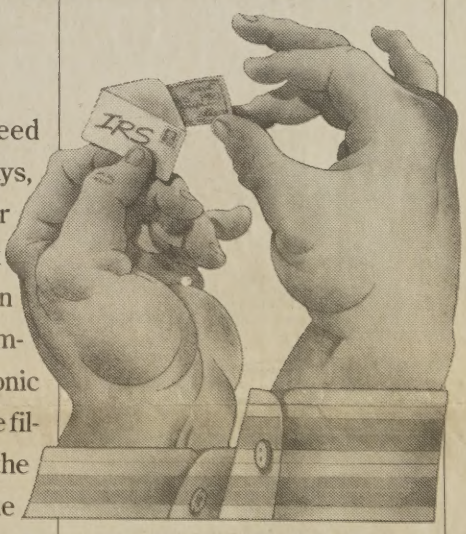

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COLORADO

Aspen/Some more equal than others

From A1

are the worker bees who keep this glitzy hive running smoothly.

After work, nearly all the workers head "down valley" to homes and trailer parks outside the city. At 5 p.m., the one-way traffic northwest on Highway 82 crawls like a slow wagon train.

A decade or two ago, the down-valley buses would have been filled with ski bums — young white guys taking a time-out from life to work, ski and party in Aspen.

But the ski bum has largely been replaced by the serious laborer with a family to support. Many of the new laborers are from Mexico and Central and South America and work for lower wages than their predecessors.

Anna Maria Fritz, a divorcee from El Salvador who lives with five relatives and her 1-year-old son in an apartment in Basalt, believes some Aspen employers exploit the immigrants.

"Sometimes they take advantage, especially if you don't speak English," she said as she rode the bus home. "I guess that's how they get to be rich."

Fritz, a $7-an-hour housekeeper at the Grand Aspen Hotel, has little respect for Aspenites. While she wouldn't mind joining them on the ski slopes if she could afford lift tickets and medical insurance, she can't imagine living with them.

"The people are snobby," she said. "They walk right down the middle of the street like they own everything."

Area residents disagree on the impact of income

Economic disparity is an Aspen tradition. But longtime Aspen residents say that until recently, class distinctions were minimal.

Rich and poor danced in the same clubs and chugged beers at the same parties.

"When I came here 10 years ago, the rich people would try to look like locals. They'd put their jeans on and blend in," said pottery instructor Michelle McCordy as she rode the bus into town. "Now the rich people expect everybody to look like them. I'll tell you, the spirit has really gone out of the Aspen I knew."

But others say the spirit of freedom and tolerance has endured Aspen's growing economic disparities.

"Sure, there are class distinctions, but everybody is drawn to Aspen for the same reason," says Rene Friedman, an Aspen dentist who works part time as a cocktail waitress to help pay the rent for an apartment she shares with two friends. "It's so beautiful. We love the mountain biking, the skiing. And when you get on the mountains, everybody's equal. There's really a feeling that we're all kindred spirits."

Friedman believes Aspen's image of tolerance is steeped in a true sense of equality.

"There's not a lot of prejudice from what I can see," she said.

That's one reason Friedman moved here from Miami. Another is that Aspen doesn't have a lot of urban blight.

"There are no homeless people to step on when you're walking down the street, no sirens or riots," she said. "You forget about those things."

But to Kathleen Rutherford, that isolation from the problems of urban America makes Aspen's tolerance more an intellectual exercise than a heartfelt crusade.

"It's a mentality that reminds me of academia," said Rutherford, a clerk at Explore book store and coffee house. "They may take a certain stand on an issue, but they're removed from the reality. How many people in Aspen have ever walked through a housing project?"

Pastor says good life can't be had for price

First Baptist Church Pastor Randy Youngling looked at the beautiful, designer-clad men and women in his pews and addressed their most adamant cause — not the fight for gay rights or the struggle for racial equality.

It's the quest for the good life.

"The problem is, we see the good life in different ways," he told them.

The most popular interpretations, he said, involve looking good, feeling good and collecting goods.

"The Bible presents a different and much more radical view of what the good life is," he said, walking out from behind his pulpit. "It's a life filled with goodness, goodness that's the result of the work of the spirit of God."

Love and tolerance are part of that work, he said. But he stressed that love and tolerance are not exclusive to any political ideology.

He was reminded of that recently when he overheard a two men at a local restaurant discussing Amendment 2.

"One said, 'You know, I can't believe that (Colorado KKK leader) Shawn Slater is going to come to Aspen.'

"The other responded, 'Yeah, I hope somebody assassinates him.' "

Youngling said he felt like leaning over and saying, "That makes you just like him.

"The irony in our culture is that we'll be tolerant as long as everybody agrees with us," he said.

Some residents point to the nation's largest winter gay gathering as proof of the city's spirit of acceptance.

More than 2,000 gays and lesbians skied, partied, mingled, and shopped last week during the 16th annual Gay Ski Week.

Many of the gays said they felt welcomed by the community.

But in the past 16 years, that warm reception has had some cold spots.

A few years ago, a local night-club owner closed his business during Gay Ski Week. He said the establishment was having plumbing problems. But many people say the real reason was that the owner did not want his establishment labeled a gay bar.

Another bar tried to fight the gay-bar tag by banning same-sex dancing. City officials told the owner the ban was illegal. The next year, he changed the bar's theme from disco to country and western, thinking that would turn off gays. It didn't. They learned the two-step.

Even the owners of Tatou, one of the most popular bars during Gay Ski Week, alienated some gays by taking out a newspaper advertisement after last year's event that said, "Straight again. Heterosexuals welcome."

The owners later apologized to gay community leaders, and this year placed a sign in the window that says, "Tatou against 2. Repeal Amendment 2."

The gays who come here for Gay Ski Week are quick to forgive.

Even though David Seplow, a New York City mortgage loan officer, was perturbed a few days ago when he was buying salad fixings and heard one of the locals whisper, "They're here already," he's not ready to give up on Aspen.

"For the most part, it really does seem to be a tolerant community," he said.

But part of the reason for that is that gays here for a week of fun on the slopes and in the bars speak Aspen's language.

"They tend to be really good tippers," said Snowmass waitress Lisa Stucky-Doris.

"They have an excellent sense of style," said Scott March, a sales clerk at Gorsuch Ltd.

White, the Aspen gay community spokesman, estimates Gay Ski Week pumps about $9 million per year into the local economy.

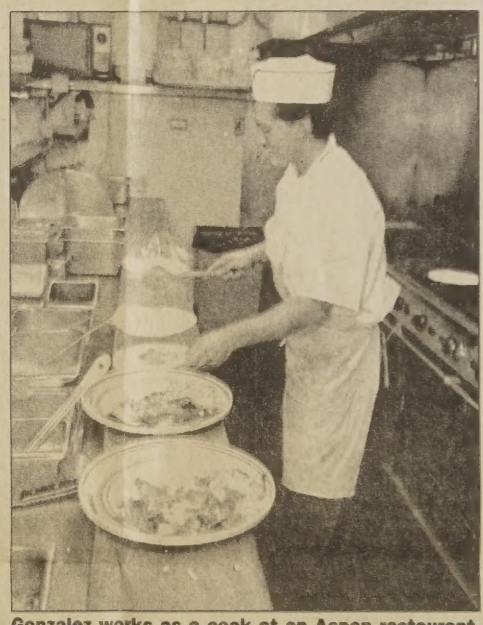
Those dollars speak volumes about how accepting the community is.

"Economically, our town has come to like Gay Ski Week," he said.

Photos by Tom Kimmell/Gazette Telegraph

A couple enter Tatou, an Aspen bar, last weekend. This year, Tatou has a sign that says "Tatou Against 2, Repeal Amendment 2." The spot is a popular draw for skiers attending Gay Ski Week. Last year, the bar's owners took out a newspaper advertisement that said "Straight Again. Heterosexuals Welcome" when Gay Ski Week ended. They later apologized to gay community leaders.

John Stickney and his wife, Lee Beck, left, ride a bus from Buttermilk Ski Area in the Aspen area, where they work, to their home near Carbondale. They can't afford to live in Aspen. At right, Victor

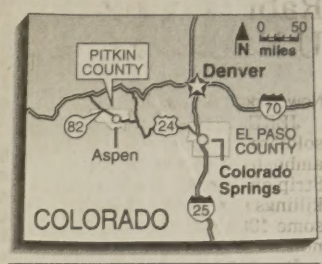


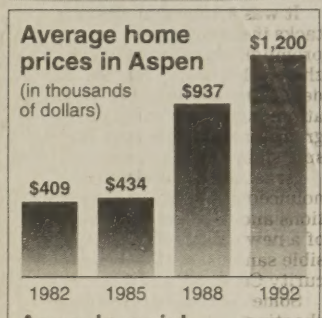
Gonzalez works as a cook at an Aspen restaurant. He is from Guadalajara, Mexico, one of the new immigrants to the Aspen area from Mexico and South and Central America.

Gazette Telegraph

Pretty—and pricey

Aspen is a largely white city with one of the highest average home prices in the nation.





Aspen's racial demographics

RACE	RESIDENTS
White	4,883
Black	15
American Indian or Eskimo	24
Asian	73
Other races	54
TOTAL	5,049

Hispanic origin (People of Hispanic origin may be white or of another race.) Of Aspen's total 5,049 residents, 239 are of Hispanic origin.

Sources: Aspen Board of Realtors, U.S. Census Bureau